1: Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1936 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



boiled radishes is given to cattle with " cattle plague ". Donkeys are said to be susceptible to a very fatal disease.

Both cattle and camels are used in ploughing, the former usually in pairs and the latter singly. For the working of the wells, camels, cattle, donkeys, men and women, all combine, frequently in mixed teams, the animals being generally given a bunch of fodder at the top of the incline each time they reach it. Camels are also employed in turning the machines for extracting the simsim oil. The fact that fodder and water become more scarce north of the main Wadi necessitates a greater use of camels and donkeys are few and far between. Donkeys are uncommon also in the Wadi Maseila, for there is a three-day stretch without water in the middle of the Wadi, and below Buzun the flow is not perennial. Sheep and goats, however, are to be found everywhere, seeking their pasture under the care of women or girls.

Heald in his report states that no attention is paid to selection during the breeding season—which is usually in the early summer. With the sheep, one lamb is generally the average—although higher up in the Hadhramaut, amongst better pasture, ewes give two lambs. The sheep in the Meifa valley had black fleeces with the curly fat tails, although smaller than the Egyptian sheep. The goats are also smaller than in Egypt and originally came from the Yemen.

It was particularly noticeable in the Wadi Maseila that the live-stock were very much smaller than those elsewhere. The cows are little larger than a normal-sized calf, and the sheep and goats are also smaller than those in Du'an or to the north. The cattle are similar in size to those of Soqotra. The breeds of goats and sheep appeared to vary considerably over the whole country, but a black-and-white variety was the most common. His Highness the Qu'aiti Sultan has a few horses, both for riding and carriage work, and I saw one at Meshhed. There are probably not a dozen in the whole country.

**Minor agricultural products.**

Dates in the Hadhramaut are merely a hobby, and the entire local crop is consumed fresh during a season of two months, June and July. It may be recorded that a single date-tree in the Du'an valley sells from 400 to 1,000 dollars, many times its economic price. Dates form a staple article of diet and are therefore imported in large quantities.

The principal grain and other food crops are millet—*dirra* (great millet, *Sorghum vulgar*), *dukhn* (bullrush millet, *Pennisetum typhoideum*) and *keneb* or *msebeli* (Italian millet, *Setana italica*); lucerne; *jil jil* (sesame, not eaten by donkeys); *dijar* (a kind of bean); wheat (not eaten by donkeys or goats); and a little maize. The stalks are generically known as *qusab*, and the grain as *ta'm*. Hashish or grass is also grown for animals. The principal garden crops are sweet potatoes, onions, garlic, pumpkins, carrots, egg

0. Pike N-6 (no date) 1940 MM3 Hadhramaut MM3

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FIG. 3—The Wadi Hadhramaut at Tarim, looking eastward, i.e., downstream. Tarim, surrounded by its wall, is at the left. Trees in the broad alluvial-filled valley are date palms, irrigated by water hand-drawn from wells. The dissected character and even summit levels of the Jol (plateau) are clearly seen. Canyon walls along the wadi are 500 to 1000 feet high. Irrigation ditches to divert occasional floods are discernible everywhere on the wadi floor.

312
245

438

FIG. 4—A caravan carrying wood to the market in Tarim.

P. 632

8: Pike N-4 (no date) 1940 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

133

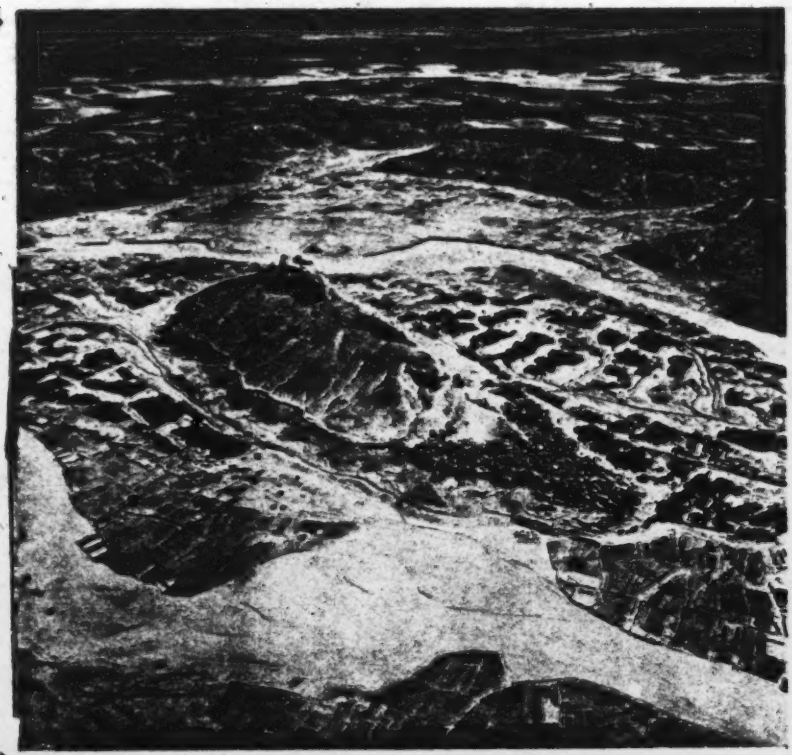

FIG. 11—Hajarein, the largest city in Wadi Du'an, is on one of the principal caravan routes between Mukalla and the Wadi Hadhramaut. Its site was obviously chosen with an eye to defense. Groves of cultivated date palms and millet fields may be seen amid a series of earthen retaining walls and irrigation ditches. As in other cities of the Hadhramaut, adobe brick is the building material.

361
145
312
487
333

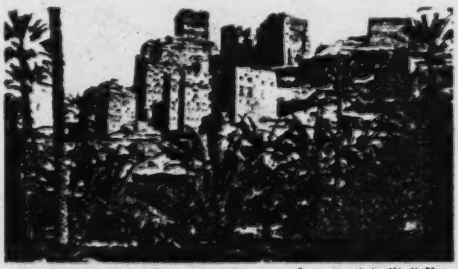

FIG. 12—A typical, fortified, Arab settlement on the banks of the Wadi Hajr. The irrigated groves of date palms furnish the main foodstuff.

P. 638

8: Pike N-4 (no date) 1940 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



Himyarites was an important export center for incense and myrrh, has enough rainfall to support a thin growth of vegetation, largely incense trees. From this area and the surrounding country, at one time more abundantly watered, the priceless gum was most extensively collected in the past. It is still gathered today in small amounts, according to demand. The gum, which adheres to the bark, is har-

FIG. 20 Caravan loading. The three men at the right are arguing about the disposition of loads.

vested from varieties of the Burseraceae family, *Boswellia Carterii* and *B. Bhua-Dajiana*, divided by the Arabs into four grades.[4] Its value, which ranges from £80 to £10 a ton, depends on such qualities as color (red, green, and brown), size of the gum particles, and degree of adulteration. Just as the rubber gatherers of the Amazon debased latex with pebbles and gravel, so did the Arabs in the heyday of the incense trade, and to some extent even now, admix varying amounts of fine sand with the gum to increase its weight. Between March and August the trees are tapped by knife incision and a milky juice is extracted, which dries in three to five days.

Besides incense trees, a thin and scattered growth of bunch grass, camel's-thorn, and a cedarlike evergreen abundant in some dry wadies is found in the Hadhramaut. Date-palm groves, which cover many square miles, are mainly dependent on irrigation.

## SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY

In addition to artesian water and the water obtained from wells, other sources of supply are available. One of these is the *siquaya*, a small, rectangular, concrete tank with a capacity of 20 or 25 gallons erected along caravan routes near towns and maintained by them as a public service. Another is the well or cistern excavated at the base

[4] Freya Stark: The Southern Gates of Arabia, [New York], 1936, pp. 10–11.

Halfway up from the coast to the top of the Jol, on the road from Mukalla to Tarim, there is a small spring in a coconut grove where agricultural Bedouins live. These people obtain part of their meager income by collecting and selling herbs that are said to grow only in this vicinity as well as from a flock of goats and from coconuts. They are semi-cave dwellers and have walled up with loose stones rock ledges lacking sufficient overhang. The tribe is deft at making coconut-fiber rope, which they prepare for braiding by carefully pounding the fiber on a rock with a wooden mallet. Here a market comes to the door in the form of caravans going to or from Tarim, and to them the rope is sold or traded.

## Emigration and Immigration

Lack of employment and overpopulation in the Hadhramaut have caused large-scale emigration to both the east coast of Africa and the Malay States. Even abroad the tribes show a tendency to congregate, with the result that emigrants customarily establish foreign residence with their relatives and friends. Many Hadhramis return, so that today, after a long period of both emigration and immigration, Malay has become a "second language" in the Hadhramaut.

Some have acquired riches, but no one has expended them in a more notable fashion than Seiyid Abu Bekr al Kaf. His family acquired wealth in Singapore and then returned to the Hadhramaut with the hope that through its efforts the cultural and material status of the region might be improved. Donations were made to the poor, city slums bettered, roads constructed; and small English automobiles, transported by camel across the plateau and assembled in the valley, were introduced. An elaborate guesthouse in Tarim and another in Seiyun were constructed, equipped with imported European furniture, and stocked with food and servants so that a foreign visitor might know that accommodation meeting his standards and needs was available. Recently a difficult truck and automobile road between Tarim and the coast, a distance of 170 miles, was completed by the Al Kaf family without outside assistance and at the cost of many thousands of pounds, to connect the hinterland with the more advanced and better-developed and more easily accessible coastal region. However, the greatest humanitarian achievement in the modernization program of the Hadhramaut, that of the termination of age-old tribal warfare and the spread of peace, was not long ago brought about by Mr. Ingrams, assisted by the influential and wholehearted coöperation of the Al Kaf family. At last the incredible, unceasing warfare of the Hadhramaut, where villages only a few hundred yards apart blazed away at each other month in and month out, has stopped, and caravans are no longer sacked by raiding parties.

During the daytime the heat was stifling, and at night it was so cold that for hours before the sun rose I was no longer able to sleep. The interminable, barren plain was covered all over with sharp, loose fragments of stone, and among these wound the narrow path along which from morning to night we steadily wended our way. Drinking water is here to be found in *negābas,* which are cisterns hewn out of the rock some three meters below the surface, with a narrow opening. Low ridges lead the scanty rainfall to the *negāba.* Owing to the narrow opening there is very little evaporation, and if one has no rope at hand with a vessel to draw water, this opening is just large enough to admit a man to dip it out. Near the *negāba* there is usually a little square building made by piling up rough stones in clay, this is called *murabba,* and here the midday hours with their scorching heat may be spent. For the sake of safety, our Bedouins avoided the *negābas* as places for passing the night. In the evening the neighborhood of the bivouac was carefully reconnoitred, and usually sentries were posted at night. The authorities at Makalla had given us for our personal protection two negro soldiers belonging to the famous slave army of the āl-Qa'ētī sultān. On May 15 we reached the wonderfully beautiful valley Wādī Dō'an. The descent of hundreds of meters of this almost perpendicular wall of rock with loaded camels was a difficult feat causing some anxiety; but the Bedouins and their camels reached the valley below without a single mishap. As we looked upon this *wādī,* hemmed in by its high walls of rock, it looked like a land of magic with its deep-green groves of date palms and its clay villages with great castles and high houses. A glowing heat as dry as dust prevailed in Wādī Dō'an night and day. The bright yellow and deep red bunches of dates were hanging ripening in the hot wind. In the shade of the magnificent and remarkably well kept trees the population were quietly waiting for the harvest time. A great deal of mixture with negro blood (of slaves) has

16: Gardner A-4 (1937-38) 1939 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



172 angles to the main one, and which distributed the water to the field-plots: these are from 4 to 8 m. broad and approximately 2 m. above the general ground-level. The irrigation of the fields themselves was directly controlled by the tertiary system, which consists of short narrow 1-m. ditches, taking off at an acute angle either from the main or secondary channels. The total area covered by this network was about 7 sq. km., and its various parts can be paralleled in the modern irrigation system.

Near the southern edge of this system there are several fields bounded by high silt banks. These are marked on the map by strong dotted lines, and some can be faintly distinguished in Plate 3 on the edge of the valley floor beyond the flood channel. They may be later in date, but in one case a stone inlet and outlet channel was found similar in all respects to the ancient work. The ground-level was here about RL 787 m., the inlet channel at 788·2 m., and the outlet at 787·7 m. Many of these fields have been intermittently cultivated in modern times by means of rainfall only.[1] A scatter of sickle flints and microlithic obsidians was found over the entire irrigated area. It may be noted that obsidian implements were absent on all the Islamic sites examined.

312 . At the present day the flood waters are led off the flood channel several kilometres above Hureidha and are carried down by a 4-m. channel running [245] on the south side of the wadi (see Fig. 2) till they reach the palm groves of the town, where they divide and water many thousand palms. As the ancient 172 system was so similar to the modern it seems probable that it resembled it in this respect also. Within the area mapped there was no sign of a supply from the flood channel. The main canal never approached it and the minor ones were actually truncated by it. A day was therefore spent in riding up the wadi in the hopes of finding the take-off of the main pre-Islamic canal. Traces of it were followed for 16 km. but nowhere did it approach the present flood channel till the latter swings across the valley floor towards the north cliffs (Plate 3). Here a well-defined ancient canal is truncated by the wadi bed. It has 2 m. high gravel-covered banks, 30 m. apart, and can be clearly traced for 80 m. or so in an eastward direction. Beyond this point there is no sign of it, and here may therefore be the actual take-off of the flood waters which fed the ancient supply.

Possible confirmatory evidence was obtained about 1 km. upstream. Here there is a remnant of a V-shaped dam which projected from the southern bank part-way across the stream and would have served to divert the current to the entrance of the channel (Plate 11). In the bed itself only the foundations of this dam remain as a band of stones 3½ m. broad, wedged on both sides by larger, more regularly laid material. The downstream arm is 40 m. long and the upstream one 63 m., with a base of 81 m. along the wadi bank. The upstream branch springs from a base that wedges into the gravel of the bank for 2·6 m. The sloping sides are composed of wedge-shaped limestone blocks: eighteen courses high, probably the full number, are preserved on the downstream side and fourteen on the upstream. The infilling is of gravel. No sign of inscriptions or well-dressed stones were seen, and the age must therefore remain conjectural; but local tradition knows nothing of its history.

[1] Mr. Ingrams notes that in the Wadi Maseila the fields are constantly changed—'Hadhramaut' (Colonial Office Report No. 123, 1937, p. 59).

18:Ingrams G-3 (1934-36)1938 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



passes Gheil Ba Wazir, a well-built walled town and the headquarters of the Hamumi tobacco-growing industry. The most skilful diggers of wells and irrigation channels and tunnels come from this place and the system of water which irrigates the tobacco plantations is extremely thorough.

Shihr is an ancient town. Its present walls are not old but there has been a town on this site for at least eight hundred or nine hundred years, and the principal coastal town of the neighbourhood has been hereabouts for a great deal longer. Mukalla of course is much newer. Shihr is an important fishing centre and vast quantities of fish are brought in daily to be sun dried for up-country consumption or eaten fresh locally. Weaving, dyeing, and mat making are minor but locally important industries. About 7 miles from Shihr is Tubala which has been built on a hill over sulphurous springs. This place has won local renown for its sulphur baths and quite a number of rheumatic sufferers have visited it. Hami, farther along the coast, has an even larger number of hot springs, but the picturesque site of Tubala suggests the possibility of a Spa hotel, easily accessible by car from Shihr, and we have rather prematurely considered the positions of the Pump Room and Concert Hall in the Spa Gardens. In view of the progressive ideas of His Highness and the Seiyids in the interior, the provision of a few hotels is not an unlikely development before long, and the country will be an ideal winter resort. Shihr is the principal market for the whole of the eastern Hadhramaut, including all the Kathiri country, and its imports by sea are very considerable, although it is worse off for harbour facilities than Mukalla, as it is nothing but an open roadstead and has no jetties; but apart from the local Aden steamers even ocean-going steamers call there as well as at Mukalla.

Most of the carrying trade is in the hands of the great Hamumi tribe, which has no real villages of its own and extremely few dwelling-houses, but which owns a very large number of camels. The chief of the tribe also owns a great quantity of date palms in different parts of the Hamumi country. I have recently done a considerable amount of flying over Hamumi country which extends over about 3000 square miles and is now well known to the Royal Air Force.

When we first went up the road to Tarim in November 1936 the car road was of course not completed and some 20 miles northwards from Shihr there was a gap which had to be traversed by donkey through Ma'adi, the country of the Ba Hasan Tanbulis who had steadfastly resisted the attempts of Seiyid Bubekr and the Al Kaf family to complete it. These Ba Hasan Tanbulis are allied to the Hamumis and are nicknamed Tanbuli because they are the only people in the whole of the Protectorate who grow betel nut and pepper vine, though Ibn Batuta speaks of it at Dhufar a good deal to the east, and I expect it exists there still. There is nothing much in the countenances of the Ba Hasanis to make you think they are related to the Hamumis, for as a whole the Hamumis are fine-looking men and uncouth is a mild word to describe the general run of Ba Hasanis. Hamumis themselves have said to me that they are not human beings, and an Arab friend, when we were looking at some of the more primitive of them, said to me: "They only want tails and you would say they are monkeys." However they grow on you as I daresay monkeys do after a time, and I am now quite fond of them. When

22: Reilly G-8 (1933-41) 1945 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2
Middle East Islands MM2
Socotra



terraced by the industrious inhabitants to grow crops and, in the higher altitudes, the excellent Mocha coffee for which Southern Arabia is famous. Villages appear in unexpected places, built of mud brick in the low country and of stone on the mountain-sides and hill-tops. Among these habitations are seen always the square towers, or *tars*, and the little mosques or whitewashed shrines that are characteristic of the Arab villages.

The aspect of the country varies in its different parts. Immediately to the north of Aden is the large and fertile oasis in which stands the capital of the Sultan of Lahej. It is irrigated from the bifurcation of the Wadi Tiban that brings water from the mountains and then disappears in the sands near Aden. To the east and west of Lahej are desert strips, but beyond are the Subeihi hills and valleys to the north-west, the rugged Haushabi country, and the pleasant district of Dhala in the Amiri highlands to the north, and the lofty mountains of Yafa to the north-east. Thence to the eastward a steep escarpment spans the country like a rampart and is crowned by the fertile Audhali plateau 7,000 feet above sea-level. Farther east, beyond another stretch of rough, mountainous country, is the fantastic and barren *jol*, reminiscent of pictures of the surface of the moon. To the north of this strange and desolate area, and in striking contrast to it, is the wide valley of the Hadhramaut, with its chain of towns and villages, its skyscrapers, country houses, palace and gardens. Beyond again, away to the north, lies the edge of the Rub' al Khali, the Empty Quarter, with its sea of tumbled terra-cotta coloured sand dunes stretching into the distant interior.

On the sea coast of the Protectorate there are at intervals fishing villages and little ports, and about 300 miles to the east of Aden stands the picturesque town and port of Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti Sultan. Protected by a steep background of rock, its white houses cling to the shore, and its appearance from the sea is singularly attractive. The town of Shehr lies on the coast beyond it, and eastward again there are more coastal villages, of which Qishn, the capital of the mainland territory of the Sultan of Socotra, is the most important.

The large island of Socotra, situated about 500 miles to the east of Aden, forms part of the Protectorate. It, too, is a mountainous country, but, owing to its greater rainfall, it is much less bleak than the neighbouring mainland. It has a good deal of varied vegetation, and is noted for its so-called dragon's-blood tree, the sap of which is exported to India and elsewhere to make a rich purple dye. Socotra has also a

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



A little way beyond the boundary-marks, about 20 Bedouins have made a bivouac under an overhanging wall of rock. On the top of the rock on the other side of the road are their outposts, who keep a sharp look-out for caravans passing along the high road. One caravan that had carried out a vendetta is now in safety in Makalla, a willing prisoner. We only realized later that we should be the ones to free it from that imprisonment.

The road winds through steep rocks and at last zigzags up to a plateau which seems to be of coral limestone formation. The hamlet of Maʿōṣ lies in a rocky valley a little in front of the plateau; further up, in a longer valley, there is a larger village called el-Ḥarshīyāt. From the plateau one can see, far away to the left, the village of el-Ḥawwā'. We are soon past the rock massif of Makalla, and the road descends to an inlet of the sea which has run far inland, whereon lies the village of Buwēsh. Papaya, bēdān and bananas are planted here along the edge of fields of lucerne. In the wādī that runs into the sea near Buwēsh there are, higher up, more date-palms and other fruit-trees, plantations which are the property of the Vizier and of other rich men of Makalla. The wells from which the fields are irrigated are not deep here, only 20 feet. On the coast between Buwēsh and Makalla lies Rūkeb. The road mounts again, runs for some time over coral formations, and then again drops to the Wādī Feleq, into which, far inland, the sea-water runs and which, consequently, is more like a small river. Baṣra lies a little higher up this wādī. At the edge of the stream we find much *asal*[1] growing. The coral limestone terraces on both sides are fairly high. The road runs farther over level land where jathropha shrubs grow; whole patches, also, are covered with incense bushes, which are recognizable by their scent and have either no leaves or very small ones. Some tall acacia bushes with elongated blossoms stand out here and there amidst the brownish shrubs which grow upon the bare rocky ground, strewn with pieces of coral.

[1] A kind of big reed.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



000 the fairly steep slope of Wādī Ḥimem, high above the *sēl*-bed. We looked down on the fresh green of small trees and shrubs; a shepherdess with her flock of goats was occasionally to be seen amongst them. The path then dropped down towards the wādī; walking over the grey-white boulders and under small acacias with scanty foliage, we made our weary way to the end of Wādī Ḥimem, in and beside which we had been journeying for days past.

### 4. THROUGH WĀDĪ LUṢŪB TO THE GREAT ROCK PLATEAU. THE CAMP AT EL-ḤISĪ.

133 361 312 We came out onto a high plateau, but soon entered the wide, shallow bed of Wādī Luṣūb, which was fairly well covered with vegetation. Small, poor houses lie scattered here, like cubes of stone, with very primitive little gardens. The people live principally by breeding sheep and goats. We made our quarters for the night just beyond the houses, forming the hamlet of el-Ḥisī, beside a large well of masonry within which one descends by stone steps to the surface of the water. The well had been dug in the *sēl*-bed and was therefore protected by a thick wall, as high as a man, against the water floods which appear after rain. In el-Ḥisī lived the family of Mautor, the leader of our caravan, and hence the dawdling which characterised this day; on no account were they prepared to go beyond el-Ḥisī.

● 246 262 All bickering was forgotten now and our Bedouins radiated contentment and willingness. The people of el-Ḥisī set to work cutting up food for our animals, all the inhabitants came to have a look at our camp, and, afterwards, Mautor took all his comrades with him to feast in his village. He brought us, beforehand, a cloth full of *nibq* fruit. The *nibq* tree, also called *sidr* or *dōm*, is of intrinsic importance in those parts of Ḥaḍramaut where there is too little water for the cultivation of the date-palm. There, wherever one is dependent on the *sēl*, the water which only comes after rain, and where the subsoil

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



water is too far below the surface to serve for the regular irrigation of a plantation, the *nibq* can still live quite well, and even if there is no rain for some years it does not die. The fruit of the *nibq* is as large as a marble and has a stone of the size of a pea. The taste is sour-sweet and refreshing. The fruit can be dried and kept for a long time: it is then crushed fine, stone and all, and with the meal bread is baked or a sort of porridge made. This small fruit is the chief food supply of many in times of drought, and in times of scarcity many Bedouins live on *nibq* and milk and do not look ill on the diet. The shepherdesses carry the *nibqs* with them in small oval, prettily woven baskets.

The wood of the *nibq* tree is reddish-brown and hard, and is used for beams and supporting pillars in the big, many-storied, mud houses of the rich. The branches, thick with thorns, are used in the date plantations when the bunches of dates approach ripeness. They are bound in a wreath round the trunk just below the clusters of fruit, to prevent the dates from being stolen. Finally the green leaves of the *nibq* are also useful: when, during a long drought, there is hardly any more food to be found for the sheep and goats one sees the agile shepherdesses, in spite of their flowing, black garments, clambering up to the top of the *nibq* tree and knocking off the leaves from the branches with long, thin sticks. The flock stands below the tree in expectation of the godsend of food to come. We have only a mild admiration for the *nibq* fruit: one must do much chewing for little nourishment and for little taste.

They also brought us from el-Ḥisī a few handfuls of the roasted larvae of white ants. The taste was not bad; Von Wissmann ate up a whole helping with the result that, shortly afterwards, he had a pain in his throat and could not utter a sound, a condition that lasted for about two hours.

El-Ḥisī lies about 4500 feet above sea-level, and the evenings are quite cold. While there, we examined the bundles of plants which we had already collected and pressed. Great

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



tinually along the wall of rock. They move slowly and very cautiously, and the whole caravan reaches the bottom of the wādī without mishap.

The advance guard with the donkeys has long since arrived. A crowd of boys stands waiting for us, and in the background, in the shadow of the date-palms, there are a number of women, who do not wish to let slip this chance of seeing Naṣrānīs. The Governor, Bā Ṣurra, has sent a few soldiers to show us the way to his castle. They look like Yemenīs and, indeed, come from the western highlands. The villages and towns are situated close up against the slopes of débris above the cultivated fields. The houses are high and well built, often against steep inclines. Only a few of the rich have allowed themselves the luxury of a whitewashed top storey. The path winds through date-groves to the *maṣnaᶜa*, the castle of the *Dōla* (Government). The date-palms are strong, fine trees; heavy clusters of yellow and red dates hang downwards from their crowns. Each tree is surrounded by a mud wall, so that, when the *sēl* comes, the roots are not washed bare, and a considerable amount of water is kept inside the little wall. Even in the deeply shaded plantations our feet sink in a thick layer of dust as fine as powder, for there has been no *sēl* for a long time.

## 2. BĀ ṢURRA, THE GOVERNOR OF WĀDĪ DŌ'AN.

The path leads steeply upwards through the village of el-Maṣnaᶜa to the castle, which stands on the top of a rock high above all the other houses. It looks like a great mediaeval fortress with corner-towers, heavy triple gates, with stables, soldiers' quarters, halls and living-rooms. The stout wooden gates are magnificently carved, and decorated with metal plates and nail-heads. The first gate is opened by a guard of soldiers. We pass through a passage to the second gate, and then through a stable, past some calves, to the third. Then we are led through a hall, full of soldiers, to a narrower one, really

# CHAPTER V.

## THROUGH THE WĀDĪ TO HADRAMAUT PROPER.

### 1. ṢĪF THE INHOSPITABLE.

It is warm, — 39.5° C. — even in the shadow of the date-palms through which our way now leads for hours to come. We go on in the direction of Ṣīf, alternately up over the dyke and through the dried-up bed of the irrigation canal. Finally vegetation grows less and less and so does the number of villages on the slopes of rock débris. As time goes on one sees in place of date-palms more and more *nibq* trees. Their thorny branches are dragged in bundles to the date plantations, where they are bound to the trunks of the trees below the bunches of fruit, so that it is very difficult to get at the ripening fruit. In order to protect the dates, now becoming soft, against birds and other animals, bags made of plaited palm-leaves are pulled over the large clusters of fruit and then tied round their quite long and strong stems. On our way we meet donkeys laden with these bags, and also men and boys dragging after them bundles of branches of the *nibq* tree. The date-palms are excellently cared for. The dry leaves are cut away close to the trunk, and the clusters of fruit hang almost immediately underneath the crown of leaves. The date harvest is the great, happy event of the wādī. The fortunate possessors of date-trees drop down into the plantations from the *djōls* and side-wādīs. Those who are earning their living out of the country try to return home in time for the date harvest, and they all postpone their departure abroad until it is over. Yet this is more an affair of reverence and tradition than of economic importance. The local date is of no consequence as an article of commerce,

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245 and is only important as part of the food supply of the
262 people. The slave and the Bedouin consider the Dō[illegible] as the really good one; the imported one, from Baṣra, they regard as inferior. The sayyids and notabilities who have made money abroad do not set much value on the date as an article of daily food. They keep on their date-groves in order to have a summer pavilion and a swimming-bath and to enjoy the shadow, the twittering of birds, and the old, familiar squeaking and creaking of the wooden wheels over which run the ropes drawing the water for irrigation from the wells to the surface. The family domestic staff and slaves with their wives and children find work in the date-groves, where they earn the food from which they chiefly subsist. The date plantations of the rich in this country are under present conditions no longer a source of income.

245 The fields which are dependent on the *sēl* go on beyond
241 the tract where the date-palms come to an end. They lie, well tilled, waiting for the rains higher up. Sometimes there is only one *sēl* in the year, but if it is a good one, its supply of water suffices for a successful harvest of dates. In the open spaces between the dates *dhura* is grown in summer, and *burr* [1] in winter. Most of the *sēls* occur in autumn.

There are fortunately plenty of *siqāyas* on the way to Ṣīf; it is true, the water is not always clear or odourless, but we are so tormented by thirst that we pay no attention to that.

Already long before Ṣīf cultivation ceases in the broad bed of the wādī, and our narrow path winds over bare stones.

361 Towards sunset we see Ṣīf lying on a broad slope of rock débris just where the wādī is very wide and the rocky bank is broken and retreats. The little, walled-in village looks rather poverty-stricken; the houses are not high, and only a few of their inhabitants appear to be well enough off to allow of their dwelling-floors being whitewashed, and of having a gay border to the balustrades of the roof-terraces.

104 [1] *Burr* (بُرّ), *triticum vulgare* Vill., cf. Schweinfurth, *op. cit.*, p. 172, 175.

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



diverting itself in the street below us, when suddenly we heard a great noise and saw people running from all directions and bombarding the house opposite ours with stones. We thought that a general fight was about to ensue. Then came some men carrying burning palm-leaves and the house which was a target for the stones was fantastically lit up. To our great relief we discovered the cause of the disturbance: a large snake was trying to escape along the front of the house. Some of the stones hit their mark, the twistings and writhings grew slower and then the creature fell into the street as if broken. One of the most daring in the crowd approached and cut off the end of its tail; with that the danger was ended and peace was soon restored.

When we were thoroughly tired of answering the numerous questions put to us and of greeting those who put them, we asked permission to retire to rest. The whole assembly gave its approval; our host announced that we were to sleep on this same terrace, but no one moved an inch for us to be alone. So there was nothing for it but to stretch ourselves out between our visitors, who were packed as close as sardines. A little later on we were awakened for a meal; every one was still sitting in the same place. We ate and then at once went to sleep again, but were awakened before the sun rose by the loud voices of our visitors, who had already come back.

That day was to be devoted to getting our caravan ready for the journey to Makalla. Stammering Saʿīd, who had been such a trusty helper to us all the way from Rēdet ed-Deyyin, would give his exhausted camels a good feed and rest and then return with them to his boundless, hard rock-plateau. The taciturn black slave from el-Qarn in the Yebʿeth district had been a good guide; he went his way homewards well pleased with a thank-offering for the faithfulness, of which we had had so much doubt at first.

A reconnaissance of the neighbourhood showed that several hot springs water the date-gardens and cultivated fields near

24:Meulen and Wissmann T-3 (1931)1932 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2



Ṣidāra. The high temperature of the water does no harm to the vegetation as can be seen by the thick and almost tropical growth even at the sources of these hot streams. The picture made by this landscape in the midst of the deserts of rock was quite new to us. New to us also was the custom, which exists here, of tapping sap from the palm-trees: this sap soon ferments and produces a by no means innocent drink which is consumed in large quantities. Artless tales were told us of many a man who had become a regular slave of the wine of the date-palm. That this abuse of the date-palm, so strongly condemned by orthodox Muḥammadan opinion, does not seem to exist in other districts through which we travelled, is probably due rather to poverty than to religious conscientiousness. The people only indulge in the luxury of this sin in the well-watered country of Wādī Ḥadjr, where date plantations succeed each other continuously for hours and even days.

We had a bathe in one of the warm springs, a comfort lacking since Diyār Āl Buqrī; but the crowded circle of critical and youthful spectators and their mocking remarks, added to the somewhat too high temperature of the water, prevented complete enjoyment of the event.

These hot springs point to volcanic action. Ṣidāra lies on the edge of the coastal chain of mountains, which is full of clear traces of volcanism. The monotonous similarity of the *djōl* and *wādī* formation of the interior has disappeared. The geological strata are no longer horizontal, nor do they consist any longer of limestone and sandstone and loam. Fantastically folded and broken strata, high precipices and peaks of archaic rock, between which extinct volcanoes can be recognised, characterize the landscape between Ṣidāra and Makalla.

The necessary waiting for camels and escort gives us the opportunity to write up our diaries, which has been pushed aside lately by other and more urgent affairs; but although our host does his best to give us the chance of a few hours' quiet work in a room upstairs, he does not succeed in doing so.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden
Hadhramaut MM2

*ADEN PROTECTORATE*

# PART IV

## Chapter 1 : General Review

### WESTERN ADEN PROTECTORATE

642 THE years 1951 and 1952 were marked by (a) Government penetration
648 into the Upper Aulaqi Sheikhdom (Maan) at the invitation of the Ruler and the subsequent formation of the United Administration of Maan and Khalifa ; (b) the conclusion of two Advisory Treaties with the Upper Aulaqi Sheikh and Audhali Sultan (May and July, 1952)
647 and a joint Advisory and Protectorate Treaty with His Highness the Sultan of Lahej ; (c) the formation of the Fadhli—Lower Yafa' Health Board ; and (d) the formation of the Lower Aulaqi Regency Council in Ahwar (August, 1952).

Politically the period under review was one of consolidation and development of the administrations of the various States in the Protectorate.

438 The Abyan Board did well in 1951 when it sold 9,890 bales of cotton for £867,088. In 1952 the rains were not so plentiful with the result that only 6,300 bales were sold for £725,810.

648 Relations with the neighbouring Kingdom of the Yemen remained difficult in spite of the Modus Vivendi Agreement concluded with it in London in January, 1951. Interference in affairs well inside the Protectorate boundary was a cause of friction.

### EASTERN ADEN PROTECTORATE

622 In the Qu'aiti and Kathiri States the main constitutional advance has been in the setting up of town and village councils to deal with local affairs.

659 Of necessity both Administrations have been preoccupied with
654 measures to combat the threat of food shortage which must always be
653 faced in this region of uncertain rainfall. The States and local author-
245 ities have maintained dumps of grain, which are designed to tide over a period of scarcity before imports can arrive from the coast, and a periodical check is made on resources of motor transport to ensure that distribution of supplies is not held up by failure of camel traffic in an emergency. Positive measures have been taken to increase local food supplies. Funds have been allocated for loans to farmers to purchase pumps to increase areas of cultivation. Schemes for the rebuilding of dams and for flood control have been put into effect. Particular attention has been paid to the rehabilitation of date palms.

established to supply the local market—for the processing of soaps, pressed aluminum utensils, cigarettes, pottery and textiles, the extraction of sesame oil, the cutting of buttons from trochas shells and the building of dhows. Fishing is of potential importance, but its development is handicapped by primitive methods of procurement and handling and inadequate local transport facilities. The agricultural resources of the Colony are limited to market gardens and date groves on the oasis of Sheikh Othman.

Agriculture and fishing are the principal occupations of the tribesmen of the Protectorate. The fisheries of the eastern districts are reputed to be among the richest in the Middle East, while the drying and salting of fish and the manufacture of fish oils, fodder and manure are valuable industries in the coast towns. A large proportion of the people in Western Aden Protectorate and the Hadhramaut engage in agriculture, although the tribes of the steppe country are mainly nomadic pastoralists. The expansion of farming is curtailed by uncertain rainfall and shortage of water supply. In the Eastern Aden Protectorate, cultivation is restricted mainly to the middle portions of the Hadhramaut valley, where the river flows for part of the year. This region is historically famous as a source of frankincense and myrrh. Elaborate terracing and irrigation are employed in many areas for the conservation and the utilization of the limited water resources available. It was estimated in 1948 that less than 0.5 per cent of the total land area was suitable for farming, but the relative extent of pasturage and desert has not been determined. Systems of peasant ownership, tenancy farming and tribal land tenure prevail in different localities. The improvement of agriculture and expansion of irrigation are prominent among the development programs for the Protectorate. A co-operative project for the cultivation of cotton and other crops by modern methods has recently been initiated on 5,000 acres in the Abyan area in Western Aden Protectorate. Little